

**FORCIBLE ENTRY WARRANT AMENDMENTS**

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Matthew H. Gwynn**

Senate Sponsor: Michael K. McKell

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends the requirements for law enforcement officers to forcibly enter a premises.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ provides an exception to the requirement that a law enforcement officer knock and demand admission and wait a reasonable time before forcibly entering a premises in certain circumstances; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**77-7-8**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 131

**77-7-8.1**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 131

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*



28 Section 1. Section 77-7-8 is amended to read:

29 **77-7-8. Forcible entry to conduct search or make arrest -- Conditions requiring a**  
30 **warrant.**

31 (1) As used in this section:

32 (a) "Daytime hours" means the same as that term is defined in Section 77-7-5.

33 (b) [~~"Forcible entry"~~] "Forcibly enter" means entering any [~~building, room,~~  
34 ~~conveyance, compartment, or other enclosure~~] premises by force.

35 (c) "Knock" means to knock with reasonably strong force in a quick succession of three  
36 or more contacts with a door or other point of entry into a building that would allow the  
37 occupant to reasonably hear the peace officer's demand for entry.

38 (d) "Knock and announce warrant" means a lawful search warrant that authorizes entry  
39 into a building after knocking and demanding entry onto [~~property or building as outlined~~] a  
40 premises described in Subsection (2).

41 (e) "Nighttime hours" means the same as that term is defined in Section 77-7-5.

42 (f) "Peace officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53-1-102.

43 (g) "Premises" means any property, building, room, conveyance, compartment, or other  
44 enclosure.

45 [~~(f)~~] (h) (i) "Supervisory official" means a command-level officer [~~and~~].

46 (ii) "Supervisory official" includes [~~all sheriffs, heads of law enforcement agencies~~] a  
47 sheriff, a head of a law enforcement agency, and [~~at~~] a supervisory enforcement [~~officers~~]  
48 officer equivalent to a sergeant rank or higher.

49 (2) (a) Subject to the provisions of this [~~subsection, an~~] Subsection (2), a peace officer  
50 when making a lawful arrest, or serving a [~~lawful~~] knock and announce warrant, may [~~make~~  
51 ~~forcible entry~~] forcibly enter a premises:

52 (i) [~~where the person~~] if the individual to be arrested is located[;] within the premises;

53 or

54 (ii) [~~where~~] if there is probable cause [~~for believing the person to be~~] to believe that the  
55 individual is located within the premises.

56 (b) (i) [~~Before making the forcible entry, the~~] Subject to Subsection (3), before forcibly  
57 entering a premises as described in Subsection (2)(a), a peace officer shall:

58 [~~(i)~~] (A) wear readily identifiable markings, including a badge and vest or clothing with

59 a distinguishing label or other writing [~~which~~] that identifies the [~~person~~] individual as a law  
60 enforcement officer;

61 [~~(ii)~~] (B) audibly identify himself or herself as a law enforcement officer;

62 [~~(iii)~~] (C) knock and demand admission more than once;

63 [~~(iv)~~] (D) wait a reasonable period of time for an occupant to admit access after  
64 knocking and demanding admission; and

65 [~~(v)~~] (E) explain the purpose for which admission is desired.

66 (3) [(c)] (a) [(i) The officer need not knock, give a demand and explanation, or identify  
67 himself or herself, before making a forcible entry] A peace officer does not need to:

68 (i) comply with the requirements of Subsection (2)(b)(i)(B), (2)(b)(i)(C), (2)(b)(i)(D),  
69 and (2)(b)(i)(E) before forcibly entering a premises:

70 (A) under the exceptions in Section [77-7-6](#) or [77-7-8.1](#);

71 (B) where there is probable cause to believe exigent circumstances exist due to the  
72 destruction of evidence; or

73 (C) where there is reasonable suspicion to believe exigent circumstances exist due to  
74 the physical safety of [~~an~~] a peace officer or individual inside or in near proximity to the  
75 [~~building.~~] premises; or

76 (ii) comply with the requirements described in Subsections (2)(b)(i)(C) and (2)(b)(i)(D)  
77 before forcibly entering a premises if the officer, or another peace officer:

78 (A) has been near the premises for an extended amount of time and a reasonable person  
79 would conclude that an individual on the premises knows or should know that a peace officer is  
80 present;

81 (B) has demanded admission; and

82 (C) has complied with Subsections (2)(b)(i)(A), (2)(b)(i)(B), and (2)(b)(i)(E).

83 [~~(ii)~~] (b) [The] If a peace officer forcibly enters a premises under Subsection (3)(a)(i),  
84 the peace officer shall identify himself or herself and state the purpose for entering the  
85 premises as soon as practicable after entering the premises.

86 [~~(d)~~] (4) The peace officer may use only that force [~~which~~] that is reasonable and  
87 necessary to [~~effectuate forcible entry~~] forcibly enter a premises under this section.

88 [~~(3)~~] (5) Subject to Subsection [~~(4)~~] (6), if the [~~building~~] premises to be entered under  
89 Subsection [~~(2)~~] (2)(a) appears to be a private residence or the peace officer knows the

90 ~~[building]~~ premises is a private residence, and if there is no consent to enter or there are no  
91 exigent circumstances, the peace officer shall, before entering the ~~[building]~~ premises:

92 (a) obtain an arrest or search warrant if the ~~[building]~~ premises is the residence of the  
93 ~~[person]~~ individual to be arrested; or

94 (b) obtain a search warrant if the building is a private residence, but not the residence  
95 of the ~~[person]~~ individual whose arrest is sought.

96 ~~[(4)]~~ (6) Before seeking a warrant from a judge or magistrate under Subsection ~~[(2)]~~  
97 (2)(a), a supervisory official shall, using the peace officer's affidavit:

98 (a) independently perform an assessment to evaluate the totality of the circumstances;

99 (b) ensure reasonable intelligence gathering efforts have been made;

100 (c) ensure a threat assessment was completed on the ~~[person or building]~~ individual or  
101 premises to be searched; and

102 (d) determine either that there is a sufficient basis to support seeking a warrant or  
103 require that the peace officer continue evidence gathering efforts.

104 ~~[(5)]~~ (7) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, ~~[forcible entry under this~~  
105 ~~section]~~ a peace officer may not ~~[be made]~~ forcibly enter a premises based solely [for the  
106 alleged] on:

107 (a) the alleged possession or use of a controlled substance under Section 58-37-8; or

108 (b) ~~[the]~~ the alleged possession of drug paraphernalia as defined in Section 58-37a-3.

109 ~~[(6)]~~ (8) All arrest warrants are subject to the conditions ~~[set forth]~~ described in  
110 Subsection 77-7-5(2).

111 ~~[(7)]~~ (9) ~~[Unless specifically requested by the affiant and approved by a judge or~~  
112 ~~magistrate, all knock and announce warrants shall be served]~~ A peace officer shall serve a  
113 knock and announce warrant during daytime hours unless a peace officer has requested, and a  
114 judge or magistrate has approved, for the warrant to be served during nighttime hours.

115 Section 2. Section 77-7-8.1 is amended to read:

116 **77-7-8.1. Forcible entry to conduct a search -- Conditions requiring a warrant --**  
117 **No-knock warrants.**

118 (1) As used in this section:

119 (a) "Daytime hours" means the same as that term is defined in Section 77-7-5.

120 (b) ~~["Forcible entry"]~~ "Forcibly enter" means the same as that term is defined in

121 Section [77-7-8](#).

122 (c) "Nighttime hours" means the same as that term is defined in Section [77-7-5](#).

123 (d) "No-knock warrant" means a lawful search warrant that authorizes entry [~~into a~~  
124 ~~building~~] onto a premises without notice to any occupant [~~in the property or building~~] on the  
125 premises at the time of service.

126 (e) "Supervisory official" means the same as that term is defined in Section [77-7-8](#).

127 (f) "Peace officer" means the same as that term is defined in Section [53-1-102](#).

128 (g) "Premises" means any property, building, room, conveyance, compartment, or other  
129 enclosure.

130 (2) Subject to the provisions of this section, [~~an~~] a peace officer serving a lawful  
131 no-knock warrant may [~~make a forcible entry onto the property or building~~] forcibly enter a  
132 premises to be searched without notice.

133 (3) Before seeking a no-knock warrant from a judge or magistrate under Subsection  
134 (2), a supervisory official shall, using the peace officer's affidavit:

135 (a) independently perform an assessment to evaluate the totality of the circumstances;

136 (b) ensure reasonable intelligence gathering efforts have been made;

137 (c) ensure a threat assessment was completed on the [~~person or building~~] individual or  
138 premises to be searched; and

139 (d) determine either that there is a sufficient basis to support seeking a warrant or  
140 require that the peace officer continue evidence gathering efforts.

141 (4) (a) The affidavit for a no-knock warrant shall describe:

142 (i) why the peace officer believes the suspect is unable to be detained or the residence  
143 searched using less invasive or less confrontational methods;

144 (ii) investigative activities that have been undertaken to ensure that the correct  
145 [~~building~~] premises is identified and that potential harm to innocent third parties, the [~~building~~]  
146 premises, and officers may be minimized; or

147 (iii) the present or imminent threat of serious bodily injury or death to [~~a person~~] an  
148 individual inside, outside, or in near proximity to the [~~building~~] premises.

149 (b) [~~A~~] A peace officer shall serve a no-knock warrant [~~shall be served~~] during daytime  
150 hours unless [~~the~~] a peace officer's affidavit states sufficient grounds to believe a search is  
151 necessary during nighttime hours.

152           (5) [~~Upon serving a no-knock warrant, an~~] An officer shall wear readily identifiable  
153 markings when serving a no-knock warrant, including a badge and vest or clothing with a  
154 distinguishing label or other writing [~~which~~] that shows that the [~~person~~] individual is a [~~law~~  
155 ~~enforcement~~] peace officer.

156           (6) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, [~~an~~] a peace officer may not  
157 request a no-knock warrant if the warrant is solely for a misdemeanor investigation.

158           Section 3. **Effective date.**

159           This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.